

Declaration of Dependence: Stephanie Smith

Declarations of independence enact separation. They assert boundaries between one entity and another, dividing nations, communities, and people.

Declarations of dependence embrace connection. We are inextricably bound to each other: politically, socially, spatially, economically, and emotionally. Differentially felt, these bonds are partial, always shaped by power. Some are stronger or weaker, desired or resisted, more or less visible. With that in mind, this declaration names those who most directly contributed to *Summer Sessions: Commonwealth*. Others might map this differently, for networks of dependence shift according to our own position within a project, an institution, a city, a commonwealth.

This project depends on the collaboration and care of Noah Simblist and our closest partners in conceptualizing and planning the project: Duron Chavis * Rebecca Keel * Enjoli Moon * David Riley * Dominic Willsdon.

And also: the designers, Session leaders, Field Research participants, students in the spring 2019 VCUarts course *Commonwealth*, and ICA colleagues: Andrew Alli * Chaz Antoine * Payton Baril * Malia Bates * Janine Bell * Samantha Best * Laurie Brown * Marshall Brown * Lesley Bruno * Meighan Cahoon * Meredith Carrington * Carolina Caycedo * Andy Clifford * Matt Conrad * Lillian Cook * Tamoria Corpening * Nick Crider * Berkley Cutlip * Anthony D'Angelo * Griffin Davis * Heather Davis * DJ Ease * Free Egunfemi * Alyssa Evangelista * Nick Fagan * Grant Foster * Sofia Gallisá Muriente * Traci Garland * Kyla Garland * Cora Georg * Andrew Gabbins * Pablo Guardiola * Madison Hall * Alex Haller * Erin Hanas * Laketch Haile * Erika Hastings * Michelle Hawkins * Grace Hoffman * Madeline Honig * Brittany Horner * Chioke l'Anson * Chelsea Higgs Wise * Becky Hudson * D'Anna Johnson * Warren Jones * Patton Hindle * Grace Hoffman * Ice Cream Social * Michelle Koppl * Kevin LaMarr Jones and CLAVES UNIDOS * Dylan Languell * Wansu Kang * Michael Lease * Caroline Legros * Margo Lentz-Meyer * Michael Linares * Jonathan Knopf * Madeline Maier * Bill Martin * Giancarlo Mazzanti * Lais Myrrha * Katherine McDonald * Daniel McGarvey * Carlos Medellín * Chelsea Neal * Dan Nemer * DJ Nobe * Tawnya Pettiford-Wates * Nicole Pollard * Gus Rasich * Stephanie Rhoades * Quilian Riano * Ryan Rinn * Sharita Roberts * Devonte Robertson * Liliana Robinson * LaRissa Rogers * Paul Rucker * Ricardo Vincente Jose Ruiz * Julea Seliavski * Gregory Sholette * Kate Sicchio * Jonas Staal * Brent Tarter * Sarmistha Talukda * Brooke Taylor * Erica Taylor * Emerson Tedder * Nato Thompson * Ell Trees * Clayton Turner * Luis Vasquez * Tanesha White * Melissa Vaughn * WRIR * Jackie Washington * Darick White * Whitney Whiting * Ed Williams * Sandy Williams IV * Tyler Wiseman * Scarly Zhao * and others.

And also: the many activists, artists, designers, scholars, texts, colleagues, collaborators, and prior projects that offer direct and indirect inspiration.

And also: all those who collaborate through their presence and participation, including the many visitors who attend the Sessions; who share, ideas, and critical questions; gather in the space; who add comments to the walls; and who follow online. We hope you will stay with us and with these issues of common wealth and common debt over time.

And also:



Written for *Summer Sessions: Commonwealth*, organized by the Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU. The project is part of the ICA's contribution to *Commonwealth* (working title), a multi-year collaboration with Beta-Local (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and Philadelphia Contemporary (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).